3. (Twice Amended) A method for the treatment of cerebral infarctions which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a *hedgehog* polypeptide in an amount effective to reduce cerebral infarct volume by at least 50% relative to the absence of administration of the *hedgehog* polypeptide.

4. (Twice Amended) A method for the treatment of cerebral ischemia which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a *hedgehog* polypeptide in an amount effective to reduce cerebral infarct volume by at least 50% relative to the absence of administration of the *hedgehog* polypeptide.

5. (Twice Amended) A method for the treatment of stroke which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a *hedgehog* polypeptide in an amount effective to reduce cerebral infarct volume by at least 50% relative to the absence of administration of the *hedgehog* polypeptide.

6. (Twice Amended) A method for the treatment of transient ischemia attack which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a *hedgehog* polypeptide in an amount effective to reduce cerebral infarct volume by at least 50% relative to the absence of administration of the *hedgehog* polypeptide.

18. (Reiterated) The method of claim 5, wherein the stroke is a thrombotic stroke.

19. (Reiterated) The method of claim 5, wherein the stroke is an embolic stroke.

20. (Reiterated) The method of claim 1, wherein the conditions result in cerebral hypoxia.

21. (Reiterated) The method of claim 1, wherein the conditions result in progressive loss of neurons due to oxygen deprivation.

22. (Reiterated) The method of any of claims 3-6, wherein the patient is treated prophylactically.

23. (Reiterated) The method of claim 1, wherein the individual is treated prophylactically.

25. (Reiterated) The method of claim 1, wherein the individual is hypotensive.

26. (Amended) The method of any of claims 1 and 3-6, further comprising administering one or more of an anticoagulant, an antiplatelet agent, a thrombin inhibitor, and/or a thrombolytic agent.

27. (Amended) The method of any of claims 1 and 3-6, further comprising performing vascular surgery.

28. (Reiterated) The method of claim 27, wherein the vascular surgery comprises carotid endarterectomy.

31. (Amended) The method of any of claims 3-6, wherein treatment of the patient with the *hedgehog* polypeptide results in at least a 70% reduction in cerebral infarct volumes relative to absence of treatment with the *hedgehog* polypeptide.

Please add the following new claim:

38. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein treatment of the individual with the *hedgehog* polypeptide results in at least a 70% reduction in cerebral infarct volume relative to absence of treatment with the *hedgehog* polypeptide.

The claims presented above incorporate changes as indicated by the marked-up versions below.

1. (Twice Amended) A method for limiting damage to neuronal cells by ischemic or hypoxic conditions, comprising administering to an individual ~~a therapeutic regimen including administering~~ a *hedgehog* polypeptide ~~and administering a *pte* therapeutic~~ in an amounts effective for reducing cerebral infarct volume by at least 50% relative to the absence of administration of ~~the *pte* therapeutic and~~ the *hedgehog* polypeptide~~, wherein the *pte* therapeutic~~

~~is a PKA inhibitor, a cAMP phosphodiesterase agonist, an antagonist of adenylate cyclase, or an antagonist of cAMP~~.

3. (Twice Amended) A method for the treatment of cerebral infarctions which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a ~~therapeutic regimen including administering a~~ *hedgehog* polypeptide ~~and administering a *ptc* therapeutic~~ in an ~~therapeutically effective~~ amounts~~, wherein the *ptc* therapeutic is a PKA inhibitor, a cAMP phosphodiesterase agonist, an antagonist of adenylate cyclase, or an antagonist of cAMP~~ effective to reduce cerebral infarct volume by at least 50% relative to the absence of administration of the *hedgehog* polypeptide.

4. (Twice Amended) A method for the treatment of cerebral ischemia which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof ~~a therapeutic regimen including administering~~ a *hedgehog* polypeptide ~~and administering a *ptc* therapeutic~~ in an ~~therapeutically effective~~ amounts~~, wherein the *ptc* therapeutic is a PKA inhibitor, a cAMP phosphodiesterase agonist, an antagonist of adenylate cyclase, or an antagonist of cAMP~~ effective to reduce cerebral infarct volume by at least 50% relative to the absence of administration of the *hedgehog* polypeptide.

5. (Twice Amended) A method for the treatment of stroke which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof ~~a therapeutic regimen including administering~~ a *hedgehog* polypeptide ~~and administering a *ptc* therapeutic~~ in an ~~therapeutically effective~~ amounts~~, wherein the *ptc* therapeutic is a PKA inhibitor, a cAMP phosphodiesterase agonist, an antagonist of adenylate cyclase, or an antagonist of cAMP~~ effective to reduce cerebral infarct volume by at least 50% relative to the absence of administration of the *hedgehog* polypeptide.

6. (Twice Amended) A method for the treatment of transient ischemia attack which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof ~~a therapeutic regimen including administering~~ a *hedgehog* polypeptide ~~and administering a *ptc* therapeutic~~ in an ~~therapeutically effective~~ amounts~~, wherein the *ptc* therapeutic is a PKA inhibitor, a cAMP phosphodiesterase agonist, an antagonist of adenylate cyclase, or an antagonist of cAMP~~ effective to reduce cerebral infarct volume by at least 50% relative to the absence of administration of the *hedgehog* polypeptide.